

CHAPTER TWO

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 1997

We were glad to be told that our Division had been chosen to host 1997 World Environment Day in the Northern Zone, the main reason being that we were in the forefront in conserving the environment in the whole region. Immediately the preparatory committee was formed and started its job.

A meeting was convened of all the Chief Patrons, heads of schools concerned, government leaders, and village leaders from Singa, Sungu, and Mweka. We told them about the purpose of celebrating Environment Day and the need to conserve the environment. They unanimously agreed, bearing in mind that it was a great honour to be chosen to host the occasion. The participants agreed that the guest of honour should be the Regional Commissioner. The number of guests was also discussed, together with sources of revenue for the occasion. It was agreed that people should be asked to contribute, subsidised by contributions from various organisations. The venue was agreed to be Mweka.

The venue was to be prepared as follows:-

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1) | To clean the surroundings | - | Mweka Primary School |
| 2) | To build the stage | - | Sungu village |
| 3) | To prepare the hall | - | Mweka village |
| 4) | To transplant tree seedlings | - | Singa and Singa Chini Primary Schools |
| 5) | To prepare the room for display of local medicines | - | Mweka Primary School |
| 6) | To prepare the room for environmental displays | - | Malihai Clubs Arusha |
| 7) | To make placards and pictures | - | Nsoo Secondary School |

East Kibosho Ward Students' Workshop in commemoration of World Environment Day 1997

On 28th May, 1997 a workshop was organised for all schools, to educate students about the importance of the environment.

Participants:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Cosmas Tobias | - Singa Chini Primary School |
| Didas Rajab | - Singa Chini Primary School |
| Aristides Kiati | - Mapinduzi Primary School |
| Victoria Tomas | - Mapinduzi Primary School |
| Renatus Andrew | - Msinga Primary School |
| Mary William | - Msinga Primary School |
| Anna Michael | - Kibosho Primary School |
| Frank Kashiri | - Kibosho Primary School |

Oscar Pascal	- Sungu Primary School
Peter Silale	- Sungu Primary School
Prosper Francis	- Mweka Primary School
Fathil Hubert	- Mweka Primary School
Prosper Minde	- Nsoo Secondary School
Innocent Shio	- Nsoo Secondary School

The following resolutions were made:

- 1) That we shall not fell trees haphazardly without replacing them. Our motto should be: "Plant trees, cut a tree."
- 2) That we shall not destroy water sources by cultivating and settling along river banks. We shall conserve and maintain our water sources.
- 3) That we shall not harvest honey by using fire. These fires destroy our forests.
- 4) That we shall not go to the forest to carry timber to be sold to pay our school fees. Our parents should look for another alternative means of gaining income. Our motto is to plant trees for the benefit of future generations.
- 5) That we shall no longer go the forest to cut timber to build houses. Our main objective is to plant trees for future generations. Our parents should not have felled the trees planted by our ancestors.
- 6) That parents should acquire plots in low lying areas, not on river banks or in the forest.
- 7) That we will have to do away with the old custom of clustering together on a small farm. This destroys the environment. We should move to more spacious areas where we can bring development by planting trees and observing environmental rules.
- 8) That we shall no longer go to the forest to collect firewood to be sold as a means of income. It is forbidden to subject children to hard labour. Our rights are to study and play. It is the duty of our parents to look for other means of supporting the family.

PREPARATORY PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENT WEEK, FROM 1/6 – 5/6/97

DATE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1/6/97	General cleaning of all schools	Singa Chini Primary School
2/6/97	To plant trees along Mweka route in addition to other trees-15,000 seedlings to be planted	Singa Chini, Msinga, and other Branches
3/6/97	Cleaning of Kibosho Hospital and its surroundings	All the Branches together with Singa and Sungu Villagers
4/6/97	To reinforce the fence of Mweka Primary School and plant trees surrounding Kichao Well	Mweka School Management in collaboration with villagers

PROGRAMME OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5/6/97

TIME	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
10.00 – 10.30 a.m.	Arrival of visitors	Visitors
10.30 – 10.35 a.m.	Song	Singa Chini Primary School
10.40 – 10.45 a.m.	Poem	Mweka Primary School
10.50 – 10.55 a.m.	Cultural Dance	Sungu Primary School
11.00 – 11.05 a.m.	Poem	Omi Primary School
11.10 – 11.25 a.m.	Cultural Dance	Mweka Villagers
11.30 – 11.35 a.m.	Play	Mapinduzi Primary School
11.40 – 11.45 a.m.	Song	Kibosho Primary School
11.50 – 11.55 a.m.	Cultural Dance	Msinga Primary School
11.55 – 12.00noon	Workshop Resolutions	All Schools
12.00 – 12.15 p.m.	Introduction	Chairman
12.15 – 12.45 p.m.	Speeches from various leaders	Leaders
12.45 – 1.00 p.m.	Awarding of presents	Guest of Honour
1.00 – 1.15 p.m.	Speech	Secretary Malihai Clubs
1.15 – 2.00 p.m.	Speech by Guest of Honour	Guest of Honour
2.00 – 2.10 p.m.	Plant a tree for commemoration	Guest of Honour
2.10 – 2.15 p.m.	Group Picture	All
2.15 – 3.45 p.m.	Lunch	All
3.45 – 4.00 p.m.	Word of Thanks	Chief Patron
4.05 p.m.	End	All

CELEBRATIONS ON ENVIRONMENT DAY - 1997

Since it was during the rainy season, it had been raining all night and all morning, but when afternoon approached, it stopped raining to allow us to celebrate our important day well. The Guest of Honour arrived after all the invited guests had taken their seats. Participants first went to see the displays of different types of local medicines, the Environmental Conservation Show Room, a tree nursery, etc. The Guest of Honour then planted a tree called Mtopetope or Custard Apple tree (*Annona reticulata*) and proceeded on to the stage.

There followed songs, poems and plays as follows:

Poem by Nsoo Secondary School:

Today we are celebrating Conservation Day.
The Malihai Clubs have prospered.
They have set objectives for direction.

Chorus: To conserve the environment for our benefit.

The inheritance is wealth, environment is perishing.
We should value the environment and treasure it.
We should proclaim the environment wherever we are.

Chorus:

Welcome Malihai, we have an important task ahead.
Posters everywhere on the environment,
We shouldn't neglect, it is our livelihood.

Chorus:

Forests are burned everywhere,
Destroying environment, inviting deserts.
Forest fires are dangerous.

Chorus:

Trees are felled with no consideration,
Soon the whole world will be turned into a desert.
We are due for disaster if we are not careful.

Chorus:

Sea creatures are disappearing,
Pollution everywhere,
Our inheritance is vanishing.

Chorus:

The World Nations have raised their concern,
Brazil made resolutions,
Let the world regret environmental destruction.

Chorus:

Tanzania is rich in natural resources,

National Parks, beautiful mountains,
Tourists come to see our natural beauty.

Chorus:

Tanzania's beautiful National Parks,
Ngorongoro, Serengeti, attract,
Manyara also, Kilimanjaro is the best.

Chorus:

We should conserve water resources,
Mountains, sources of water we should conserve.
Water is our livelihood, it is valuable.

Chorus:

The rains are fruits of the environment.
We get attractions, we should bear in mind
Our economy grows through Malihai.

Chorus:

All different leaders observe the environment.
The nation should be covered with good environment.
Everybody should agree to this.

Chorus:

Lastly, environment should prevail.
Enough of the destruction,
Encourage Malihai to conserve the environment.

Chorus:

Song by Nsoo Secondary School:

Today is a joyful day in Kibosho.
Guests have come to celebrate Malihai.

**Chorus: Dear father, mother, brother and sister,
Let us join Malihai, we shouldn't wait for tomorrow
To foster Malihai.**

We appreciate your attendance,
To come and join us in celebrating Conservation Day.

Chorus:

You are most welcome,
Just feel at home with us.

Chorus:

You ask yourselves how to conserve the environment.
We shall give you the answer.

Chorus:

Once we initiate environment,

We should protect it.

Chorus:

Who initiated? The Founder, Mr. Chuwa,
For all our schools.

Chorus:

We all should volunteer to seek the culprits,
And take punitive measures against them.

Chorus:

Evacuate the riverbanks, all who have settled there,
Before we force you out.

Chorus:

Lastly we wish you a safe journey back home.
May God Bless You All.

Chorus:

Poem by Mweka Primary School:

I am coming to air my views,
Emphasise environmental conservation.
Let us join hands in protecting our environment.

Chorus: *Protect the environment for own good.*

You said you were coming to air your views,
What views?
Environmental conservation, I want to understand,
You have to educate me on that.

Chorus:

My friend let me tell you something,
People are complaining about destruction of wildlife and vegetation.
We are going to be ashamed, as there is an imminent situation ahead.

Chorus:

Let me mention what kind of destruction,
Forest fires, pollution,
Water contamination.

Chorus:

Forests are burned all over the world.
That inheritance is wealth, environment is vanishing,
Deserts are approaching.

Chorus:

Let us not burn our fields and forests.
Our toilets should be far from the house.
Factory wastes should be burned.

Chorus:

We are the cause of dry weather.
The deserts are shooting like bullets.
Cut a tree, plant trees, should be in our blood.

Chorus:

It is necessary to protect the environment.
Trees are natural resources.
Timber, herbs are plenty in the forest.

Chorus:

Land is the mother of everything.
We should protect it as it is our wealth.
Whoever misuses it, let him be ostracised.

Chorus:

Let us not forget our National Parks,
Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Manyara, and Mikumi,
They keep wildlife to attract tourists.

Chorus:

Elephants and zebra decorate our Parks,
The old man elephant is there,
And others are equally attractive to watch.

Chorus:

We profit a lot when we protect the environment,
Foreign exchange, rain, and firewood -
To protect the environment and get clean water.

Chorus:

We have benefited quite a lot,
To speak out for the environment,
To spread education everywhere.

Chorus:

Go and tell others all that you have heard,
So that they may learn the importance of the environment,
And future generations get something to inherit.

Chorus:

Observe the following:

Factors contributing to pollution of the environment:

- Cigarette smoke
- Overstocking
- Smoke from charcoal stoves
- Pesticides

- Industrial pollution
- Fumes from motor vehicles

Poem by Omi Primary School:

We are coming, reciting our poem,
 To all invited guests and villages.
 This is an important day, we charge you that -
Chorus: To protect the environment is our responsibility.

Today we are celebrating environmental week,
 The whole world is celebrating.
 We have made resolutions to avoid its loss.
Chorus:

Let us protect our water sources;
 Let us not destroy our forests, the source of water.
 Water is life, to us it is precious.
Chorus:

We are driving campaigns in our Division
 To plant trees everywhere, from Division to International level.
 We are making concerted efforts.
Chorus:

We are echoing our voices all over the country
 To conserve the environment,
 Our vegetation as well as wildlife.
Chorus:

Environment is life, and we know its benefits.
 Vegetation has life, as its friends, wildlife.
 We benefit through these.
Chorus:

We wipe out vegetation by fire,
 Vegetation and wildlife, all these are destroyed.
 Let's protect wildlife, vegetation.
Chorus:

Inhabitants of Kilimanjaro,
 We have been spared from the fire,
 Many elephants perished,
 Congratulations to Regional Commissioner, Professor Mbwiliza, and District
 Commissioner, Simon Mbesere for assisting in putting out the fire.
Chorus:

Creatures in the sea are diminishing day by day,
 Due to industrial pollution and other toxins.
 Dynamite fishing should be banned.

Chorus:

Let us be careful,
Tanzania is rich in natural resources,
Poachers should be severely punished.

Chorus:

Congratulations, Mr. Sebastian Chuwa,
For your true devotion in becoming the Chief Patron.
We shall follow your footsteps.

Chorus:

You commenced these activities in 1992-
Environmental Conservation,
To grow tree seedlings.

Chorus:

With God's blessings the seedlings thrived.
You distributed them without prejudice to all villages,
Trees everywhere in all our schools.

Chorus:

The Chief Patron of Kibosho East
Introduced the Brazil Resolutions to the entire Division,
Inaugurated Malihai Clubs in all schools.

Chorus:

We thank our visitors for coming.
We end up here,
Appealing to every one of you to adhere to what we have just said.

Chorus:

Play by Mapinduzi Primary School:

A meeting was convened by the Village Chairman to sensitise his fellow villagers about the importance of conserving the environment. He invited a Forest Officer to talk to the people and tell them about the adverse effects of destroying the environment and the benefits gained in protecting it. After the presentation he was asked questions by the villagers, which he clearly answered to the satisfaction of all.

Then the Chairman thanked him and all those present, and appealed to them to follow what the Forest Officer has said.

Song by Kibosho Primary School:

Today is a joyful day
To celebrate Malihai.
Welcome all invited guests
To celebrate Malihai.

Welcome our visitors
To see what we have done,
To protect the environment
In our schools and homes.

From the Ward to the Division level
We lead in environmental conservation.
Kibosho East Division,
We are a shining example in environmental conservation.

It is the livelihood of our Nation,
The forests are the sources of water.
Let them exist for ever.

Congratulations, Mr. Chuwa,
For inaugurating Malihai in Kibosho.
We are happy to have plenty of trees,
Congratulations, Mr. Chuwa.

It is high time for you all
To participate in conservation,
To plant trees everywhere.
That is our motto: Plant trees, cut a tree.

Look at our schools,
They are beautiful and we look smart.
We have maintained physical hygiene,
Malihai has taught us all these things.

We are now very healthy,
Development is starting in our Division.
We get timber to make desks
To educate all Tanzanians.

It is the duty of all members
To educate the mass,
To understand the truth of life
For the good of the nation.

We have enough pots
To plant seedlings,
Orchards, and timber,
Trees for shade and fresh air.

Our beautiful flower gardens
Surrounding our schools,
Plenty of vegetable gardens,
We are self-sufficient in food.

We have received lots of sports gear.

Malihai Clubs love us.
We have received books also to educate ourselves.
Congratulations, Mr. Chuwa.

Song:

Listen to our cry,
From Kibosho
Our forests are vanishing.

**Chorus: Plant trees, cut a tree,
For the good of your future.**

Kibosho schools are the leaders
In Malihai Clubs all over Kilimanjaro.

Chorus:

Mr. Chuwa is our Leader
Who heads the Malihai Clubs.

Chorus:

We have beautiful flowers in our schools
Surrounding our environment.

Chorus:

Song from Singa Chini Primary School:

It is high time for all Tanzanians
To put more efforts into the environment
In order to bring about good development.

**Chorus: We appeal to everyone
To conserve the environment.
From village to national level,
Development is brought about by good environment.**

Quality environment in schools is very important,
Nice buildings and enough tools.
It is important for the government to observe this,
For schools without buildings are like an axe without a handle.

Chorus:

It is important for teachers to advance themselves
To increase their knowledge.
Parents and teachers should co-operate.
School is not an island, but a centre for education.

Chorus:

Awarding of Prizes and Certificates:

To encourage the villagers to conserve the environment, various presents from Malihai Clubs/Arusha were awarded to the best schools and outstanding people who

did their level best to conserve the environment. The first school was Omi Primary, the second one was Sungu Primary School, and the third one was Mweka Primary School. All got books with pictures of birds and animals and certificates. Others were villagers from Singa being the first, Mweka was the second, and Sungu the third. All got certificates and agricultural tools.

Then there followed the crowning of the Chief Patron and the Pioneer of all these events, Mr. Sebastian Chuwa. He was chosen the Best Conservationist of the Year, 1997. He was clad in a local robe and given a spear and an arrow as a brave man who fought bravely all calamities which came his way in establishing the idea of conserving the environment. Without the good cooperation of his wife he would not have been able to achieve all this, and so she was also awarded some presents as a token of appreciation.

Mr. C. Mushi, the Chairman of Malihai Clubs Division in Kibosho East, introduced all the invited guests who later gave speeches as follows:

Speech by Mr. P.Ottaru the Coordinator of Malihai Clubs of Tanzania:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you and all the invited guests for accepting our invitation to come to celebrate World Environment Day. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Patron with his team, the Malihai Club members, for all the preparations done over a period of time to make this day a success. I promise to co-operate with them very closely and make sure that all that has been started will continue.

In 1972 the United Nations chose the 5th of June to be World Environment Day after seeing how the environment was being abused throughout the world. It was commemorated for the first time in 1974, and today we are joining our counterparts throughout the world to celebrate it in Kibosho.

On this day we reminisce about our past progress in conserving the environment. We look back to see progress made in trees planted, progress made in nurturing seedlings, etc. In the past people used to plant trees and leave them to care for themselves. Many trees died and never got replaced. As a result the land remained bare.

I would like to stress here that all the activities done throughout the week should not cease henceforth. Let them be the order of the day, and in that way we shall make our Division green and clean. You should also teach your parents how to conserve the environment so that not only schools look green, but even your homes. Every one of you should strive to do the best so that on such a day the best school gets rewarded.

Guest of Honour, let me give a brief history of Malihai Clubs. Malihai Club activities extend beyond planting trees. These clubs are found in all East African countries, but with different names. In Kenya and Uganda they are called Wildlife Clubs. The name notwithstanding, we work hand in hand with each other in all affairs concerning our clubs. Kenya was the first to start, followed by Uganda. We were the last. We were first organised like a Department of Environmental Education under the National Parks, and in 1985 were under the Board of Trustees of Tanzania's Wildlife Protection Fund. The head office of our Secretariat is in Arusha. In order to diversify our activities we formed two zones, namely, the Northern Zone and the Lake Victoria Zone. The Lake Victoria Zone serves Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, and Mara. In all these zones we have networks like the Kibosho East Network, which is in the Northern Zone.

Therefore, the duty of Malihai Clubs is first to sensitise members about conserving the environment. We started with students, who would pass on the message to their parents, the outcome of which will have far reaching effects. Through this we can achieve our goal. Not only youth can join these clubs, even adults are welcome as associate members. In addition to sensitising members, they will contribute towards our journal by writing articles on the environment. Members and non-members are all invited to send us articles on the environment.

In 1990 the Government saw the need to start a department dealing with the environment only. We work very closely with all institutions dealing with the environment. All that you have done this week was on a voluntary basis, which proves how you are committed to the environment.

Once again I would like to remind you to take good care of the trees you planted so that you will be proud to show them next year. Please pass on the spirit to your parents and this will make Kibosho the greenest area in the whole Kilimanjaro Region.

Speech from the Rector of Kibosho Senior Seminary:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We at our Seminary conserve the environment very strictly. We always plant trees, bearing in mind that we are between two rivers, Karanga and Nsoo. People have cultivated along the riverbanks and caused soil erosion. When I was studying there in 1968, I planted a lot of trees knowing very well why I was doing so. Today I am very proud when I look at them.

On coming back in 1985, I have been emphasising to students to plant plenty of trees for shade, fruit, and beauty. We should abide by the words taught us by these children in order to achieve our goal. They tell us to cut a tree and plant two, but I am saying to cut a tree and plant five or ten.

Thank You

Speech by the District Natural Resources Officer:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank you for your beautiful songs and poems. We were all moved by the way you cultivated the culture of preserving the environment at your tender age. Being a government representative, I am really impressed by what Malihai Clubs have done with regard to conserving the environment. This is our duty, but Malihai Clubs have gotten into our shoes and done a tremendous job. Everywhere you go, you see destruction of the environment but nobody cares. All the Clergy present here will agree with me that God decorated the earth with beautiful trees, flowers, birds, animals etc., but due to our own stupidity we have destroyed everything by craving for wealth because we want to live comfortably, not bearing in mind that we are turning the world into desert.

The other day as I was watching TV, I saw places like Monduli, which has been turned into a desert, and this has resulted in the death of wildlife as well as domestic animals. Dodoma is another place which is completely dry for lack of trees to catch rain. We are blessed to have crystal clear water flowing from Mt. Kilimanjaro, and yet we are abusing this privilege by cutting down trees. Worse still, we are burning our forests. As a result of all this destruction, all rivers and streams will one day dry up. What I want to emphasize today is that we should conserve what we have and add more. We from the Forest Division say: Plant ten to twenty trees and cut one. We don't say cut one tree and plant five. For in those twenty planted, five will definitely grow to maturity whereas in the case of five, one, or two, or none, will reach maturity stage.

We should not ignore what these children have just told us in their play. They have taught us a very good lesson. Cutting trees for timber and firewood will make the whole village suffer from lack of water. They condemned those cultivating and living along riverbanks as they are the source of all these calamities. If we take these children seriously we shall hopefully retrieve what we have lost.

Thank You.

Speech from the Counsellor, Mr. L. Orot:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Malihai Clubs for choosing my Division to host the annual World Environment Day. I assure them that we shall not abuse this great honour bestowed on us. We shall strictly adhere to the norms of Malihai Clubs to the letter. Guest of Honour, please note that not everybody in this Division is the enemy of conservation. There are good people with good farms and plenty of trees and they take good care of them. My colleagues and myself shall cooperate with the villagers to make sure that everybody lives in a conducive

environment as it has been insisted by these children. We have been chosen from the entire Northern Zone to commemorate this day with our counterparts all over the world; we assure you that we will work very hard from now onwards to love and nurture the environment, so that when you come next year you will see changes. We want to reach a stage where we are going to excel all zones and be the first.

I conclude by thanking you for being with us today and ask my fellow villagers to put into action all that we heard today.

Thank You.

Speech from the Principal of the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka read by Mr. E. Msyani:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of our College is to conserve the environment. Let me give you an example of how to conserve the environment. When you receive your salary you budget it to last you till the end of the month. If you are extravagant you will finish all the money before the end of the month and you will lead a miserable life. Similarly with the environment — we don't know how much we have destroyed and how much we have left for the coming generation. So we should use the existing natural resources with utmost care.

Last year at a similar occasion, emphasis was laid on sensitising the public about environmental conservation. My College has been following very closely the efforts put on sensitisation and found out that the same zeal you had last year is the same one today and even more. Not long from now Kibosho East will be the best in conserving the environment.

Thank You.

Speech by Malihai Clubs – Kibosho East:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to thank you for being with us today to celebrate World Environment Day. We would also like to thank all the invited guests and all the villagers for seeing the importance of attending these celebrations. The Malihai Clubs are very pleased to welcome you all.

Dear Guest of Honour, the idea of starting Malihai Clubs in Kibosho East was initiated by Mr. Sebastian Chuwa in 1992 when he voluntarily agreed to become its Chief Patron.

Guest of Honour, some of the activities done by our Clubs according to the constitution are:

- To protect the environment in our schools and homes (here we insist on hygienic conditions in our area),
- To plant and care for the trees,
- To emphasize environmental education in our schools, and
- To sensitise people to protect the environment.

Guest of Honour, some of the achievements made are:

- We have planted orchards, trees for timber, firewood, and coffee seedlings.
- Cooperation between schools and teachers has been enhanced.
- Physical cleanliness for students is very conspicuous now.
- Villagers around the schools have emulated the example of students in conserving the environment.

Guest of Honour, the Malihai Club network has enabled our teachers to visit National Parks and all the Patrons have attended a Seminar on Environmental Conservation at the Headquarters in Arusha.

Guest of Honour, in 1996 we celebrated World Environment Day in this Division. On that day we aroused the spirit of protecting the environment and some of those present have already practised what was taught to them. The same year, our clubs planted 10,000 trees of various kinds such as orchards and indigenous trees for timber, firewood, and shade.

We are indeed saddened when we see people felling trees for timber or firewood in a bid to get rich quickly, without considering the adverse effects this has on our environment. Already these effects have been seen in those low land areas, where during the dry season all the rivers and streams dry up.

We end up conveying our gratitude to all those benefactors who made this day a success.

Speech by the Guest of Honour:

Mr. Chairman,
Chief Patron,
Hon. Counsellor,
The Clergy,
Leaders of Different Parties,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin my speech I would like to apologise on behalf of the Regional Commissioner for not being able to attend this important occasion due to unavoidable circumstances. Much as he would have liked to be with us to witness what our Chief Patron has organised today, it has been impossible, so please excuse him for his absence.

It is indeed a tedious job to organise such a big function and make it a success. I know how people have been running up and down, patching up things here and there to make this day a wonderful one. I say **BRAVO** to our Chief Patron, Mr. Sebastian Chuwa, who is the initiator of these celebrations, for without him we would not be here enjoying ourselves today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him personally and all who participated in one way or another to make this day a big success. I also want to thank the cultural group, for they have made my work easy, as they have said everything in their songs, poems and plays. My sincere thanks to all those who prepared these children. You have been doing a commendable job throughout the week sensitising people about environmental issues, planting trees, etc., and today we have reached the climax, when we are joining our fellow environmentalists to commemorate this day. **CONGRATULATIONS**. The previous speakers said that God has privileged us by putting us in this beautiful garden but we have spoiled its beauty. You have reminded us all not to go on with this destruction. We were all fascinated by your artwork, the number of trees you have planted, and the most astonishing of them all are some of the trees which you told us are medicinal. In the past our parents kept this as a secret lest you took over the profession.

There is a saying which goes: 'Prevention is better than cure'. We haven't had the culture of observing these words. We have a lot of herbs to treat many diseases, but nobody has done any research on them. Had we taken this seriously it would have saved a lot of problems, as we wouldn't be depending so much on chemicals, which are expensive and have side effects. Many deaths are caused by our negligence. We don't observe proper hygiene, like having toilets, drinking clean water, cleaning our environment, washing our hands before we eat, etc. We always hear and read about people dying of cholera, diarrhoea, and other related diseases which could be prevented if hygiene would be observed. We should cultivate the culture of 'Prevention is better than cure'.

Not only should we apply this culture to our homes, but also to our environment. The other day we had a seminar. After the seminar we went to visit the town sewage system. It was indeed pathetic. The system has not been attended for years. As a result the dirty water finds its way to the river and people use that water for drinking and other purposes. You can imagine the disaster ahead of us. People in Kibosho have the tendency of making the local brew using stream water, which is infested with all sorts of bacteria. On drinking this brew they get amoebic dysentery, a common disease in the Division. As the previous speaker said, his farm is situated between two rivers on very steep slopes and to prevent soil erosion he has planted trees. Other people do not observe his efforts, as they just cultivate without even establishing terraces. Worse still, last year we did not get the short rains because people burned our beautiful Mt. Kilimanjaro. This is a treasure given to us by God for it is not found anywhere else in Africa.

Some people have tried to light a torch to enlighten us to observe the environment and protect the mountain and its surroundings. But people didn't see that, they went to the extent of building houses right at the river sources. Malihai Clubs are now teaching us not to destroy the environment. We should preserve and salvage what has remained. Though the Chairman, the Counsellor, and the Chief Patron don't like

to be congratulated, I say **BRAVO TO YOU ALL**. Such celebrations are very good as a means of sensitising people about the environment. I once attended a ceremony conducted by the Vice President, at which a pioneer in conservation was announced, the First Environmentalist of the Year. I now say if that person were here he would bestow the same honour to our Chief Patron, Mr. Sebastian Chuwa. Kibosho East will be the teacher of all other Divisions and I will be one of the students.

The third government has realised the importance of conserving the environment. That is why it has formed a special independent institution to deal with the environment only. Our children have insisted on taking stern measures against those who destroy the environment. There are many cases of these defaulters, though they are fined. But what is that compared to the benefit we get from trees, which are enjoyed by the majority?

All those who have settled and cultivated along the river banks should move out immediately. The other day the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism commended the good job done by people from this Division of extinguishing the fire which was burning on Mt. Kilimanjaro.

He observed how people are grazing their cows in the forest and directed that the rules governing natural resources must be strictly adhered to in order to protect the natural vegetation.

The government in its bid to conserve the environment has raised the fine of defaulters from 20,000 shillings to 500,000 shillings. I once again appeal to everyone to conserve the environment and if you find someone or know of anybody destroying the environment, do not hesitate to bring him to me, either in person or by writing. I assure you I will not disclose your name.

Thank You.

A word of thanks from the Chief Patron:

Guest of Honour,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for accepting our invitation to come to celebrate World Environment Day in Kibosho East.

Guest of Honour, we have made tremendous achievements since we started Malihai Clubs in 1992. People in this area have responded very well to our call of conserving nature. Every household has planted orchards, trees for timber, firewood, and shade, even though they know clearly that they are doing so for the coming generations.

Guest of Honour, our friends in Europe who came to know what we are doing have been very impressed and they have assisted us financially and otherwise. There is an organisation known as Rafiki/Friends Foundation, which has donated various

things like garden tools, books, sports gears, etc. They, in collaboration with myself, have renovated Sungu Primary School and built a nursery school. They have agreed to assist us if the villagers will participate. If they do so they will be encouraged and assist us more by renovating all the schools in this Division. These people have come to see our natural resources, they have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and seen its beauty, so they are glad when they see the villagers protecting the environment and that is why they are willing to help us.

Guest of Honour, all the dances and songs prove clearly how environmental conservation has brought development in our area.

I wish all our guests a nice and safe journey home but please do not forget to come to visit us again. Thank You.



33

Guest of Honour, the District Commissioner, Mr. Simon Mbesere, planting a tree to commemorate the occasion.



34
Environment Day 1997 at Mweka Primary School.



35
Visitors looking at the local herbs displayed on Environment Day - 1997.



36
Cultural dance by Mweka villagers.



37
In a bid to save Mt. Kilimanjaro, Malihai Clubs Kibosho East have started a very big tree nursery at Kifura, where they plant indigenous tree seedlings and transplant them to the forest border, especially those areas badly affected by forest fire.



38

Mweka Primary School members helped in the planting of 15,000 trees along Mweka route, a popular trail for backpackers on Mt. Kilimanjaro, to mark Environment Day - 1997.



39

Visitors looking at pictures showing how the environment has been destroyed.